

CLAIMS:

1. A method for enhancing a usage of a telephone (100), the method comprising:
 - receiving an incoming call;
 - detecting an ambient noise level; and
 - enhancing the incoming call to make it more understandable by a recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than a predetermined threshold noise level.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing comprises automatically amplifying a loudness of the incoming call to the recipient of the incoming call.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing comprises converting the incoming call to text and displaying the text to the recipient of the incoming call.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing comprises automatically amplifying a loudness of the incoming call to the recipient of the incoming call and converting the incoming call to text and displaying the text to the recipient of the incoming call.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone is a cellular telephone (100).
6. The method of claim 2, further comprising detecting whether a headphones (118) is operatively connected to the telephone (100), wherein the amplifying is only carried out when the headphones are detected as being operatively connected.
7. A telephone (100) comprising:
 - a receiver (102) for receiving an incoming call;
 - a noise sensor (120) for detecting an ambient noise level; and
 - a processor (104) for enhancing the incoming call to make it more understandable by a recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than a predetermined threshold noise level.

8. The telephone of claim 7, further comprising a speaker (106) for reproducing the incoming call, wherein the processor (104) automatically amplifies a loudness of the incoming call on the speaker where the detected ambient noise level is greater than the predetermined threshold noise level.

9. The telephone of claim 7, further comprising a display screen (110) for displaying alphanumeric text to the recipient of the incoming call, wherein the processor (104) converts the incoming call to text and displays the text to the recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than the predetermined threshold noise level.

10. The telephone of claim 7, further comprising a speaker (106) for reproducing the incoming call and a display screen (110) for displaying alphanumeric text to the recipient of the incoming call, wherein the processor (104) automatically amplifies a loudness of the incoming call on the speaker, converts the incoming call to text, and displays the text to the recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than the predetermined threshold noise level.

11. The telephone of claim 7, wherein the telephone is a cellular telephone (100).

12. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the processor (104) further detects whether a headphones (118) is operatively connected to the telephone (100), wherein the processor (104) only amplifies the incoming call on the speaker (106) where the headphones are detected as being operatively connected.

13. A computer program product embodied in a computer-readable medium for enhancing a usage of a telephone (100), the computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving an incoming call;

computer readable program code means for detecting an ambient noise level; and

computer readable program code means for enhancing the incoming call to make it more understandable by a recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than a predetermined threshold noise level.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer readable program code means for enhancing comprises computer readable program code means for automatically amplifying a loudness of the incoming call to the recipient of the incoming call.

15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer readable program code means for enhancing comprises computer readable program code means for converting the incoming call to text and displaying the text to the recipient of the incoming call.

16. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enhancing a usage of a telephone (100), the method comprising:

receiving an incoming call;

detecting an ambient noise level; and

enhancing the incoming call to make it more understandable by a recipient of the incoming call where the detected ambient noise level is greater than a predetermined threshold noise level.

17. The program storage device of claim 16, wherein the enhancing comprises automatically amplifying a loudness of the incoming call to the recipient of the incoming call.

18. The program storage device of claim 16, wherein the enhancing comprises converting the incoming call to text and displaying the text to the recipient of the incoming call.